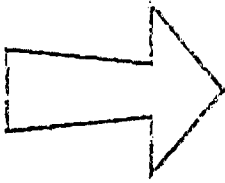


WUNDERMAN

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Phone number:

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Total pages:

2

Subject:

Microsoft Antitrust Case

Comments:

Catherine Verhulst  
1560 N Sandburg Terrace Apt. 1112  
Chicago, IL 60610-7709

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my opinion of the recent antitrust case settlement between Microsoft and the United States Department of Justice. I think the lawsuits over the last three-years were unwarranted and unfair. The fact that there has been a tentative settlement is a relief, but I still think the penalties are too harsh and biased against Microsoft.

Under the terms of the settlement, two points concern me. One, Microsoft is not allowed to enter into third party agreements for exclusive or fixed percentage distribution rights. This seems to inhibit Microsoft's ability to build and maintain market share in a competitive environment. Furthermore, companies such as Pepsi and Coca-Cola live by their ability to enter into o third party agreements. They are not being prosecuted, nor should they be. Two, Microsoft has agreed to license its Windows operating system products to the 20 largest computer makers on identical terms and conditions, including price. This term essentially creates a monopoly whereby the different vendors can collaborate to raise prices at the same time.

**If Microsoft is not allowed to profit from it's unique ingenuity, new software that drives America's productivity and internet usage (particularly e-commerce) will cease to be developed at a rate which is beneficial.** It is in the best interest of the American public for the settlement to finalize, because our economy and the IT industry in particular cannot afford to have Microsoft be hindered any longer. Please end this legal battle in a just way for our nation. Thank you.

Sincerely for justice,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Catherine Verhulst". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Catherine Verhulst